



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/898,684	07/02/2001	Tsuyoshi Miyano	ALPSP013	1763
22434	7590	02/22/2005	EXAMINER	
BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS LLP			SINGH, SATWANT K	
P.O. BOX 70250				
OAKLAND, CA 94612-0250			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER

2626

DATE MAILED: 02/22/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/898,684	MIYANO, TSUYOSHI
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Satwant K. Singh	2626

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 July 2001.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The spacing of the lines of the specification is such as to make reading and entry of amendments difficult. New application papers with lines double spaced on good quality paper are required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-7, 10-17, and 20-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Mori et al. (US 6,292,267).

4. Regarding Claim 1, Mori et al disclose a printer (printer 20) suitable for use in conjunction with a server (SVR) operable to output rendered data representing an image to the printer via a network (LAN network system), the printer comprising:

- a) a storage medium operable to store identification data associated with the printer (MEM is a storage means 24) (col. 7, lines 25-26);
 - b) a controller (FEP 21) operable to send the identification data to the server, receive decoding data and the rendered data from the server, and generate decoded

data by decoding the rendered data by using the decoding data (FEP (LAN adapter) 21 of the network printer apparatus NPRT receives a request for printing from the UNIX environment and a request for printing from the Netware environment, judges whether the communication protocol is the TCP/IP protocol or the IPX/SPX protocol from the ID of the header portion of the packet, and transmits the request to the corresponding protocol processing part) (col. 9, lines 40-47); and

c) a printer mechanism operable to print the image based on the decoded data (printing mechanism is composed of a processing system and a paper feeding system) (col. 10, lines 31-32).

5. Regarding Claim 2, Mori et al disclose a printer, wherein the rendered data includes bit image data (a RIP (Raster Image Processor) controller 22-6 for forming dot image data (bit map data) on the basis of printing data) (co. 17, lines 38-40).

6. Regarding Claim 3, Mori et al disclose a printer, wherein the printer is coupled to the server via a network device (server connected to a LAN and having the server function for a printer, and a printer apparatus connected with the server) (col. 28, lines 34-39); a first IP address is assigned to the network device; a second IP address different from the first IP address is assigned to the printer; and the rendered data has the second IP address in a header portion thereof (Fig. 5E) (col. 9, lines 65-67, col. 10, lines 1-18).

7. Regarding Claim 4, Mori et al disclose a printer, wherein the printer is coupled to the server via a network device; a first IP address is assigned to the network device; a sub IP address is assigned to the printer by the network device; and the rendered data

has the first IP address and the sub IP address in a header portion thereof (Fig. 5E) (col. 9, lines 65-67, col. 10, lines 1-18).

8. Regarding Claim 5, Mori et al disclose a printer, wherein the controller is operable to send a request for an activate code to the server (Fig. 34, S725a), receive and store the activate code from the server (Fig. 34, S725d), and send the activate code to the server when the server requests the printer to send the activate code for authentication (Fig. 35, S726a).

9. Regarding Claim 6, Mori et al disclose a printer, further comprising: an input unit operable to send user data unique to a user to the server for authentication in response to a request for the user data from the server (Fig. 33) (col. 24, lines 36-61).

10. Regarding Claim 7, Mori et al disclose a printer, wherein the controller is further operable to receive encoding data from the server, generate encoded data by encoding the user data, and send the encoded data to the server for authentication (Fig. 33) (col. 24, lines 36-61).

11. Claims 10, 11, and 20 are rejected for the same reason as claim 1.

12. Claim 12 is rejected for the same reason as claim 2.

13. Claim 13 is rejected for the same reason as claim 3.

14. Claim 14 is rejected for the same reason as claim 4.

15. Claim 15 is rejected for the same reason as claim 5.

16. Claim 16 is rejected for the same reason as claim 6.

17. Claim 17 is rejected for the same reason as claim 7.

18. Regarding Claim 21, Mori et al disclose a server suitable for use in conjunction with a printer operable to print rendered data representing an image, comprising:

- a) a printer driver operable to generate the rendered data (printer control 22);

and

- b) a controller operable to receive identification data associated with the printer from the printer, authenticate the printer based on the identification data, send decoding data suitable for use by the printer to decode the rendered data, and send the rendered data to the printer FEP (LAN adapter) 21 of the network printer apparatus NPRT receives a request for printing from the UNIX environment and a request for printing from the Netware environment, judges whether the communication protocol is the TCP/IP protocol or the IPX/SPX protocol from the ID of the header portion of the packet, and transmits the request to the corresponding protocol processing part) (col. 9, lines 40-47).

19. Regarding Claim 22, Mori et al disclose a server, wherein the rendered data includes bit image data (a RIP (Raster Image Processor) controller 22-6 for forming dot image data (bit map data) on the basis of printing data) (co. 17, lines 38-40).

20. Regarding Claim 23 Mori et al disclose a server, wherein the controller is further operable to receive a request for an activate code from the printer (Fig. 34, S725a), send the activate code to the printer in response to the authentication of the printer (Fig. 34, S725d), and send a request for the activate code to the printer when the server needs the activate code for authentication (Fig. 35, S726a).

21. Claims 24, 25, and 28 are rejected for the same reason as claim 21.

Art Unit: 2626

22. Claim 26 is rejected for the same reason as claim 22.
23. Claim 27 is rejected for the same reason as claim 23.
24. Regarding Claim 29, Mori et al disclose a printer suitable for use in conjunction with a server operable to output rendered data representing an image to the printer via a network, the printer comprising:
 - a) a storage medium operable to store identification data associated with the printer (MEM is a storage means 24) (col. 7, lines 25-26);
 - b) an input unit operable to send user data unique to a user to the server for authentication in response to a request for the user data from the server (Fig. 33) (col. 24, lines 36-61);
 - c) a controller operable to send the identification data to the server, receive decoding data and the rendered data from the server, generate decoded data by decoding the rendered data by using the decoding data, send a request for an activate code to the server, receive and store the activate code from the server, send the activate code to the server when the server requests the printer to send the activate code for authentication, receive encoding data from the server, generate encoded data by encoding the user data, and send the encoded data to the server for authentication (FEP (LAN adapter) 21 of the network printer apparatus NPRT receives a request for printing from the UNIX environment and a request for printing from the Netware environment, judges whether the communication protocol is the TCP/IP protocol or the IPX/SPX protocol from the ID of the header portion of the packet, and transmits the request to the corresponding protocol processing part) (col. 9, lines 40-47);and

d) a printer mechanism operable to print the image based on the decoded data (printing mechanism is composed of a processing system and a paper feeding system) (col. 10, lines 31-32), wherein the rendered data includes bit image data (a RIP (Raster Image Processor) controller 22-6 for forming dot image data (bit map data) on the basis of printing data) (co. 17, lines 38-40), the printer is coupled to the server via a network device server connected to a LAN and having the server function for a printer, and a printer apparatus connected with the server) (col. 28, lines 34-39), a first IP address is assigned to the network device, a sub IP address is assigned to the printer by the network device, and the rendered data has the first IP address and the sub IP address in a header portion thereof (Fig. 5E) (col. 9, lines 65-67, col. 10, lines 1-18).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

25. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

26. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mori et al. in view of Ando et al. (US 2002/0033959).

27. Regarding Claim 8, Mori et al fail to teach a printer, wherein the user data represents a fingerprint of the user, and the input unit includes a fingerprint scanner.

Ando et al teach a printer, wherein the user data represents a fingerprint of the user, and the input unit includes a fingerprint scanner (page 26, paragraph [0354]).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Mori with the teaching of Ando to use fingerprint data via a use of a fingerprint scanner to authenticate a user for printing encoded data.

28. Claim 18 is rejected for the same reason as claim 8.
29. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mori et al. in view of Gotanda et al. (US 6,707,570).
30. Regarding Claim 9, Mori et al fail to teach a printer, wherein the user data represents credit card information of the user, and the input unit includes a card reader.

Gotanda et al teach a printer, wherein the user data represents credit card information of the user, and the input unit includes a card reader (Fig. 6) (col. 6, lines 5-17).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Mori with the teaching of Gotanda to use credit card information via the use of a card reader to authenticate a user for printing encoded data.

31. Claim 19 is rejected for the same reason as claim 9.

Conclusion

32. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Maruyama (US 2002/0105670) discloses an image processing apparatus having an image storage device.

LeClair et al. (US 6,636,891) disclose method and apparatus for controlling an input or output device over the internet.

Imoto et al. (US 6,608,696) discloses a facsimile system having a server device connected to a local-area network system, to which a plurality of terminals are connected.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Satwant K. Singh whose telephone number is (703) 306-3430. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday 8am - 4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kimberly A. Williams can be reached on (703) 305-4863. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2626

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Satwant Singh

sk

Satwant K. Singh
Examiner
Art Unit 2626

Kimberly Williams

KIMBERLY WILLIAMS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER